

UCC COLLEGE HERITAGE DAY

This year marks the 350th anniversary of UCC education in higher education in America. All congregations have been invited to join in observing and celebrating College Heritage Day April 27. A special resource has been prepared by the UCC Council for Higher Education which highlights UCC higher education heritage.

Portland State University, Forest Grove, is making available to CPC congregations several faculty members who have indicated an interest in sharing their programs and fields of expertise. Information on this opportunity has been mailed to the churches.

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TOWARD OPTIMISM: REBIRTH OF OUR CONGREGATIONS

SPRING ASSEMBLY PLANS ANNOUNCED THEME SELECTED; KEYNOTERS CONFIRMED

"Toward Optimism: Rebirth of Our Congregations" will be the theme to be focused on when local church delegations convene for the 1986 Spring Assembly at Riverside Community Church, UCC, Hood River, on May 16-18.

Invited to keynote the Assembly are The Reverend Alan Johnson, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and Benton Johnson, University of Oregon Professor of Sociology.

An important part of the Assembly will be the focus on the mission strategy papers which have been discussed in local congregations and cluster meetings. Other items of business will include consideration of the 1987 Conference Budget, election of Board of Director members and officers of the Conference.

Delegate registration packets will be mailed to churches early in April. A special supplement to the May NEWS will include an annual report on the work of the Conference.

YOUTH TO CONVENE FOR GREAT NATE CREEK SPRING GET-AWAY

High School youth from across the Conference will gather at Camp Adams on April 25-27, for the Great Nate Creek Spring Get-Away. This Spring event substitutes this year for the usual February Midwinter event which was not held in order to explore a later date for the annual gathering of youth.

The committee of youth and adults planning the April Get-Away have chosen the theme: "Making the World A Camp Experience." The theme will be explored in a variety of ways. On Saturday morning youth will focus on peer counseling and strategies for making schools a more humane environment. In the afternoon there will be field trips to Portland to explore the needs of people, agencies responding to those needs, how to identify similar needs in the communities from which the youth come, and ways for youth to be involved in responding to the needs of others. In the evening there will be a multi-media presentation focusing on the religious vision of a world without war.

Detailed information on the April Get-Away has been sent to local youth groups.

A VARIETY OF WOMEN'S

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Spring Clusters for the UCC Women of the Central Pacific Conference will feature Rev. Donald Severson, Conference Minister, in Conversations on Cuba. Mr. Severson will tell of his recent trip to Cuba and visits with Fidel Castro, and with Ysel Perez, who was in our churches several years ago as one of the Women of the World program. Dates for the Clusters will be in April. Further information will be in the mail soon. Watch for it!

Annual Meeting for women will be held at Bethel UCC Church in White Salmon, Washington on Friday, May 16. Election and installation of Board members; report on the Educational Loan/Grant Fund will be given. Program will be Elsa Mann Potticary from Portland, who has hand sewn garments based on directions in the Old Testament and the Talmud. Her husband will model them. Again, information will be forthcoming.

Western Regional Women's Gathering will be held in San Diego August 8, 9, 10, 1986. Leaders will be Patricia Schroeder, UCC member and Representative to Congress; and the Reverend Susan Savelle of the UCC. Total cost is \$125 which includes registration, lodging, meals. Theme is All Women Empowered and the gathering is designed to encourage and enable UCC women to be empowered as women of the Spirit, women of action and women who will lead. Watch your church bulletin board for more information.

Northwest Regional Women's Conference will be held October 30, 31, Nov. 1, 1986 at KahNeeTa, on the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon. Women from Oregon, Washington and Idaho will gather for "Journeys of the Spirit - Inward and Outward". Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund, Dean of Faculty of Pacific School of Religion and Marilyn Breitling, Director of Coordinating Center for Women of UCC will keynote. A variety of workshops and small group experiences are planned.

Women from United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ and Church of the Brethren serve on the planning committee.

Publicity will be mailed soon - watch for it! Further information may be obtained by contacting Dorothy Schlegel, Registrar, Box 265, Forest Grove, Oregon 97116.

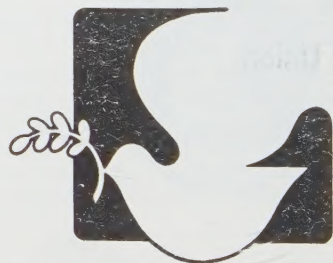
1986 JUST PEACE OFFERING

The 1986 all-church Just Peace Offering will be received by many congregations of the United Church of Christ on Pentecost Sunday, May 18.

Part of the effect of the Just Peace Offering in our denomination may be an increase in persons' awareness of themselves as peacemakers. Collectively, we act on our commitment to peace by giving generously to the Just Peace Offering. Individually, we may start to see ways in which we can act to promote justice and reconciliation in our part of the world.

Peacemaking is too important to be left to the politicians. Every peace initiative begins with an individual. The Just Peace Offering is unique among the all-church offerings of the United Church of Christ because each congregation is invited to retain one quarter of the proceeds for its own peacemaking activities.

Please consider the depth of your commitment to justice and peace in the world and right where you live and give as generously as you are able to the 1986 Just Peace Offering.



**"BLESSED ARE
THE PEACEMAKERS
FOR THEY SHALL BE
CALLED THE CHILDREN
OF GOD"**

MATTHEW 5:9

**PEACE OFFERING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Local Scene

Highland UCC, Portland, will be celebrating becoming '86" on April 27. Former members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend the day's activities beginning with 9 a.m. worship. The Reverend Cecil Prescod is Pastor at Highland.

RETIREMENTS! CPC will be losing three of its sisters through retirement by the end of June. First to retire, at the end of May, will be The Reverend Dr. Lincoln Reed, 1st Congregational Church, Portland. At the end of June The Reverend Ted Edquist will retire from 1st Congregational Church, Boise, and The Reverend Earnie Bell from St. John's UCC in Tillamook.

Lake Oswego UCC has called The Reverend Gary Ellis to be their minister. The Reverend Mr. Ellis comes to Lake Oswego from Milford, Connecticut. He begins his ministry on April 1. The congregation honored interim minister Bob Grunwald and his wife Jean at a farewell reception on March 23.

The Reverend Orville Krebs has accepted a volunteer appointment as a Church World Service Disaster Response consultant. Orville will receive training in April after which time he will be on call to respond to disaster relief needs anywhere in the world.

BUILDING DEDICATIONS: Beaver Creek UCC, "Ten o'clock Church", dedicated their new parish house following morning worship on February 2. Conference Minister Don Severson participated in that service. Meridian UCC, Wilsonville, "Log Pond Church" will dedicate the addition to their building on Sunday, April 20. Associate Conference Minister Gene Ross will participate in that event.

The Reverend Pat Ross has resigned from The Community Church of Cedar Hills to accept a position to 1st Congregational Church, Portland, where she will serve as Director of Christian Education.

A lively and meaningful finale to the monthlong celebration of Waverly Heights 75th anniversary was celebrated on February 23 at an Anniversary Service which followed the theme "We came from God over to help Waverly grow."

1st Congregational Church, Eugene, gathered 65 board and committee members for a program planning event led by Pastor Greg Flint and process facilitator William Starling.

The Reverend Greg Turner, Corvallis, has been invited to study at St. George's House, Windsor Castle during his sabbatical leave this Summer. At St. George's, an ecumenical study center for clergy and public leaders, Greg will teach a course at the annual Mid-Service Clergy Conference.

1st Congregational Church, Boise, has hired Clara Erickson as Director of Christian Education. Mrs. Erickson succeeds Deedee Boydsun who has returned with her family to Wyoming.

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

SOLICITS PEACE/HUNGER

GRANT PROPOSALS

At their February meeting members of the Mission and Outreach Committee learned that there was \$740 available to the Committee from the Conference portion of the Peace Offering and \$716 available from the Hunger Action Offering. The Committee already was in receipt of several requests for funding from those funds but decided to put off funding decisions until all churches of the Conference had been informed that these funds are available to help church or community projects in the areas of peace advocacy and hunger programs.

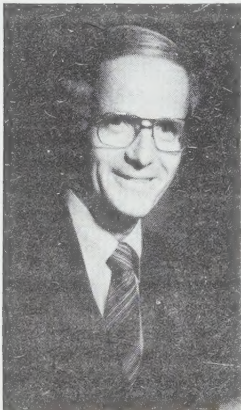
Churches which are interested in applying for these funds should be in touch with Gene Ross to receive further information. Deadline for grant applications is June 1.

At the meeting Committee members also voted to provide the following shared mission support:

Highland UCC	\$5,000
St. John's (Payette)	1,500
Southwest (Portland)	1,000
UNIDAD (Forest Grove)	1,000
SOAR (Portland)	650
Nightwatch (Portland)	250

These funds are provided through Conference OCWM support which comes from local churches. These are your dollars made available for OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION.

The Last Word



During The Service of Installation of a pastor, members of the congregation agree to "receive Rev. X as our pastor and teacher, promising both to labor with him/her in the ministry of the gospel and to give him/her due honor and support."

The first part of the vows are being observed in our conference. A lot of "labor" is going on. Our congregations are struggling to express their commitment and compassion, and our pastors are carrying out their

end of the covenant. There are many ministries to be celebrated. Immense needs challenge us, and people are making the effort to respond.

I am concerned, however, about "due honor and support". Between 1982 and 1985, the average pastoral salary in our conference increased by 9.5%, while those in the United Church of Christ nationally went up 17.2%. Central Pacific salaries slipped in rank from 19th to 26th among 38 conferences. The picture becomes even more serious when we note that the increase in the Self-Employment Tax, from 9.35% to 11.8% of salary, are up over one-fourth of the increase in CPC pastors' salaries, but only 15% for the UCC as a whole. We have done very well, in recent years, in attracting outstanding leaders to churches in our conference. If the trend continues, however, there will be trouble ahead.

Pastors easily fall into a "no win" situation on salary. If they speak up for their needs, they can be accused of being materialistic or self-seeking; they remain silent, it can be interpreted as satisfaction. If they take strong leadership on stewardship, they can be accused of promoting their own salary; if they hold back, they find themselves forced to accept salary freezes, with a subtle hint that they are responsible for the lack of a giving increase. If lay leaders "lay back", and do not handle the salary issue responsibly, respectfully, and reasonably, the pastor can sense the trap closing.

Last Spring our Assembly adopted Compensation Guidelines (available from our office) that, used diligently, will reverse the disburbing trend. They encourage open conversation. They begin from the principles of covenant, stewardship, and justice. They assert that the "cooperative ministry of laity and clergy . . . assisted by the responsible and sensitive consideration of compensation." They put practice meat on the bones of "due honor and support" that we have all pledged in covenant. The churches that have used them have had their eyes opened.

As church leaders look ahead to 1987, I hope the challenging goals will be established for pastoral compensation. If they force a more serious stewardship effort, so much the better. Care for those who serve us is a continuing responsibility, and it is one of the essential hallmarks of strong congregations.

-Don Severson



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